



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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June 12, 2003

**TO:** Dennis Braddock, Secretary  
Department of Social and Health Services

**FROM:** Marty Brown, Director

**SUBJECT:** Department of Social and Health Services Incident Report #03-20 Does Not Merit Review

Pursuant to RCW 43.41.370 and the Guidelines For Reporting Incidents to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) submitted an Incident Report to OFM. The report notified OFM that on September 14, 2002, a three-month old infant died in Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon. A Longview family care provider was caring for the infant. Initially responding to a 911 call, the paramedics transported the infant to St. John's Medical Center in Longview. The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and DSHS investigated the incident.

The medical examiner found that a viral infection was the likely cause of the breathing cessation. They also found that the other injuries were likely caused by the extreme life saving measures performed by the foster parents. There was no finding of neglect or abuse as a cause of this incident. In addition, a review of the licensed care provider was conducted. There was a complaint filed against the licensed provider in 2000, regarding staff qualifications and supervision. Corrective actions were taken and no subsequent complaints were made.

RCW 43.41.370(1) requires the Director of OFM to appoint a loss prevention review team when the death of a person, serious injury to a person, or other substantial loss is alleged or suspected to be caused at least in part by the actions of a state agency unless the Director, in his or her discretion, determines that the incident "does not merit review". Applying the criteria for loss prevention reviews, issued November 18, 2002, I have determined this reported incident does not merit review. There was a death of an infant in the care of a licensed family care provider. However, the external investigation found the cause of death to be related to a viral infection. The incident does not relate to agency systems, policies or practices. DSHS also conducted a review of the licensee. That review did not reveal any issues or problems that relate to agency policies or procedures or would indicate risk of future occurrence.

This decision will be posted on the OFM website. If you have any questions about the criteria or its application to this incident, please contact either Roselyn Marcus at (360) 902-7396 or Gary Robinson at (360) 902-0528.

cc: Bernie Friedman, DSHS, Special Assistant Secretary, Risk Management  
Roselyn Marcus, Case Management Coordinator, OFM